

## Home Reading.

## Pulpit and Pew.

I heard a dull preacher  
(One summer day,  
And I wished the poor teacher  
A furious way.

For a bird that inclined me  
Sang out in the air;  
And a child said, behind me,  
"When will he be done?"

And I sat with the others,  
Held in by the gloom;  
While the frowns were my brother  
And earth had more room.

And I heard the leaves rustle  
And slip in the air;  
And I shuddered the man's bustle,  
I shrank from the prayer.

Alas for the preacher!  
Alas for the throng!  
Unthought was the teacher,  
And so he went wrong.

Boston Transcript.

## The Conjurer Houdin and the Arabs.

In 1856, at the request of the French Government, Houdin went to Algeria, to combat with his ingenious tricks the pernicious influence which the native Marabouts exerted against the French by their pretended sorceries and conjurations, which were in reality but mere child's play. He thus describes one of his exhibitions before an assemblage of natives:

This strange medley of spectators was indeed a most curious sight. The dress circle, more especially, presented an appearance as grand as it was imposing. Some sixty Arab chiefs, clothed in their red mantles (the symbol of their submission to France), on which one or more decorations glistened, gravely awaited my performance with majestic dignity.

I have performed before many brilliant assemblies, but never before one which struck me so much as this. However, the impression I felt on the rise of the curtain, far from paralyzing me, on the contrary inspired me with lively sympathy for the spectators, whose faces seemed so well prepared to accept the marvels promised them. As soon as I walked on the stage, I felt quite at ease, and enjoyed in anticipation the sight I was going to amuse myself with.

I felt, I confess, rather inclined to laugh at myself and my audience, for I stepped forth wand in hand, with all the gravity of a real sorcerer. Still, I did not give way, for I was not here merely to amuse a curious and kind public. I must produce a startling effect on coarse minds and prejudice, for I was enacting the part of a French Marabout.

Compared with the simple tricks of their pretended sorcerers, my experiments must appear perfect miracles to the Arabs. I commenced my performance in the most profound, I might almost say religious, silence, and the attention of the spectators was so great that they seemed petrified. Their fingers alone, moving nervously, played with the beads of their rosaries, while they were doubtless invoking the protection of the Most High.

It was not enough to amuse by spectacles; I must, in order to fulfil the object of my mission, startle and even terrify them by the display of supernatural power.

My arrangements had all been made for this purpose, and, after a few simple feats which struck wonder into the minds of all present, I performed tricks which completed my reputation as a sorcerer.

Many of my readers will remember having seen at my performances a small but solidly built box, which, being handed to the spectators, becomes heavy or light at my order: a child might raise it with ease, and yet the most powerful man could not move it from its place.

I advanced, with my box in my hand, to the centre of the "practicable," communicating from the stage to the pit; then addressing the Arabs, I said to them:

"From what you have witnessed you will attribute a supernatural power to me, and you are right. I will give you a new proof of my marvelous authority, by showing that I can deprive the most powerful man of his strength and restore it to my will. Any one who thinks himself strong enough to try the experiment may draw near me." I spoke slowly in order to give the interpreter time to translate my words.

An Arab of middle height, but well built and muscular, like many Arabs are, came to my side with sufficient assurance.

"Are you very strong?" I said to him, measuring him from head to foot.

"Oh, yes," he replied carelessly.

"Are you sure you will always remain so?"

"Quite sure."

"You are mistaken, for in an instant I will rob you of your strength, and you shall become like a little child."

"The Arab smiled disdainfully as a sign of his incredulity."

"Stay," I continued: "lift up that box."

The Arab stooped, lifted up the box, and said to me, coldly, "Is that all?"

"Wait," I replied.

Then, with all possible gravity, I made an imposing gesture, and solemnly pronounced the words:

"Behold! you are weaker than a woman; try now to lift the box."

The Hercules, quite cool as to my conjuration, seized the box once again by the handle, and gave it a violent tug, but this time the box resisted, and in spite of his most vigorous attacks, would not budge an inch.

The Arab vainly expended on this unlucky box's strength, which would have raised an enormous weight, until, at length, exhausted, panting, and red with anger, he stopped, became thoughtful, and began to comprehend the influence of magic.

He was on the point of withdrawing; but that would be allowing his weakness, and that he, hitherto respected for his vigor, had become a little child. This thought rendered him almost mad.

Deriving fresh strength from the encouragement his friends offered him by word and deed, he turned a glance round them, which seemed to say: "You will see what a son of the desert can do."

He bent once again over the box; his nervous hands twisted round the handle, and his legs, placed on either side, like two bronze columns, served as a support for the final effort.

But wonder of wonders! this Hercules, a moment since so strong and proud, now bows his head; his arms, riveted to the box, undergo a violent muscular contraction; his legs give way, and he falls on his knees with a yell of agony.

An electric shock, produced by an inductive apparatus, had been passed, on a signal from me, from the further end of the stage into the handle of the box. Hence the convulsions of the poor Arab.

It would have been cruelty to prolong the scene.

I gave a second signal, and the electric current was immediately intercepted. My athlete, disengaged from his terrible bondage, raised his hands over his head.

"Allah! Allah!" he exclaimed, full of terror, then wrapping himself up quickly in the folds of his burnous, as if to hide his disgrace, he rushed through the ranks of the spectators and gained the front entrance.

With the exception of my stage-boxes and the privileged spectators, who appeared to

take great pleasure in this experiment, my audience had become grave and silent, and I heard the words "Shaitan!" "Djennoun!" passing in a murmur round the circle of credulous men, who, while gazing on me, seemed astonished that I possessed none of the physical qualities attributed to the angel of darkness.

I allowed my public a few moments to recover from the emotion produced by my experiment and the flight of the herculean Arab.

One of the means employed by the Marabouts to gain influence in the eyes of the Arabs is by causing a belief in their invulnerability.

One of them, for instance, ordered a gun to be loaded, and fired at him from a short distance, but in vain did the flint produce a shower of sparks; the Marabout pronounced some cabalistic words, and the gun did not explode.

The mystery was simple enough; the gun did not go off because the Marabout had skillfully stopped up the vent.

Colonel de Neuve explained to me the importance of discrediting such a miracle by opposing to it a sleight-of-hand trick far superior to it, and I had the very article.

I informed the Arabs that I possessed a talisman rendering me invulnerable, and I defied the best marksman in Algeria to hit me.

Had I hardly uttered the words, when an Arab, who had attracted my notice by the attention he had paid to my tricks, jumped over four rows of seats, and, disdaining the use of the "practicable," crossed the orchestra, upsetting flutes, clarinets, and violins, escaimed the stage, while burning himself at the footlights, and then said, in excellent French:

"I will kill you!"

An immense burst of laughter greeted both the Arab's picturesque accents and his murderous intentions, while an interpreter who stood near me told me I had to deal with a Marabout.

"You wish to kill me?" I replied, imitating his accents and the inflection of his voice.

"Well, I reply, that though you are a sorcerer, I am still a greater one, and you, will not kill me."

I held a cavalry pistol in my hand, which I presented to him.

"Here, take this weapon, and assure yourself it has undergone no preparation."

The Arab breathed several times down the barrel, then, through the nipple, to assure himself there was communication between them, and after examining the pistol, said:

"The weapon is good, and I will kill you."

"As you are determined, and for more certainty, put in a double charge of powder and a wad on top."

"It is done."

"Now, here is a leaden ball; mark it with your knife, so as to be able to recognize it, and put it in the pistol, with a second wad."

"It is done."

"Now, that you are quite sure that your pistol is loaded, and that it will explode, tell me, do you feel no remorse, no scruple, about killing me thus, although I authorize you to do so?"

"No, for I wish to kill you," the Arab repeated, coldly.

Without replying, I put an apple on the point of a knife, and, standing a few yards from the Marabout, ordered him to fire.

"Aim straight at the heart," I said to him.

My opponent aimed immediately, without the slightest hesitation.

The pistol exploded, and the bullet lodged in the centre of the apple.

I carried the talisman to the Marabout, who recognized the ball he had marked.

I could not say that this trick produced greater stupefaction than the one preceding it; at any rate my spectators, palsied by surprise and terror, looked round in silence, seeming to think: "Where the deuce have we got to here?"

A pleasant scene, however, soon unwrinkled many of their faces. The Marabout, though stupefied by his defeat, had not lost his wit; so, profiting by the moment when he returned me the pistol, he seized the apple, thrust it into his waist belt, and could not be induced to return it, persuaded as he was that he possessed in it an incomparable talisman.

But Houdin still more increased his reputation as a sorcerer by a second exhibition before a number of Marabouts. He was visiting at the house of one of them, and puzzled the party with several easy tricks. Finally, the host stepped forward, and resolved to end the necromancy by proposing an impossible feat:

"I believe in your supernatural power," he said; "you are a real sorcerer; hence, I hope you will not fear to repeat a trick you performed in your theatre; and, offering me two pistols he held concealed beneath his burnous, added: 'Come, choose one of these pistols; we will load it, and I will fire at you. You have nothing to fear, as you can ward off all blows.'"

I confess I was for a moment staggered; I sought a subterfuge, and found none. All eyes were upon me, and a reply was anxiously awaited. The Marabout was triumphant.

Bou-Allen, being aware that my tricks were only the result of skill, was angry that his guest should be so pestered; hence, he began reproaching the Marabout. I stopped him, however, for an idea had occurred to me, which would save me from my dilemma, at least temporarily; then addressing my adversary:

"You are aware," I said with assurance, "that I require a talisman in order to be invulnerable, and, unfortunately, I have left mine at Algiers."

The Marabout began laughing with an incredulous air.

"Still," I continued, "I can, by remaining six hours at prayers, do without a talisman, and defy your weapon." To-morrow morning, at eight o'clock, I will allow you to fire at me in the presence of these Arabs, who were witnesses of your challenge."

Bou Allen, astonished at such a promise, asked me once again if this promise were serious, and if he should invite the company for the appointed hour. On my affirmative, they agreed to meet before a certain stone.

I did not spend my night at prayer, as may be supposed, but I employed about two hours in insuring my vulnerability; then, satisfied with the result, I slept soundly, for I was terribly tired.

By eight the next morning we had breakfasted, our horses were saddled, and our escort was awaiting the signal of our departure, which would take place after the famous experiment.

None of the guests were absent, and, indeed, a great number of Arabs came to swell the crowd.

The pistols were handed me: I called attention to the fact that the vents were clear, and the Marabout put in a fair charge of powder, and drove the wad home. Among the bullets produced, I chose one, which I openly put in the pistol, and which was then also covered with paper.

The Arab watched all these movements, for his honor was at stake.

We went through the same process with the second pistol, and the solemn moment arrived when I posted myself at fifteen paces from the sheik, without evincing the slightest emotion.

The Marabout immediately seized one of the pistols, and on my signal, took it deliberately at me. The pistol went off and the ball appeared between my teeth.

More angry than ever, my rival tried to seize the other pistol, but I succeeded in reaching it before him.

"You could not injure me," I said to him, "but you shall now see that my aim is more dangerous than yours. Look at that wall!"

I pulled the trigger, and on the newly washed wall appeared a large patch of blood exactly at the spot where I had aimed.

The Marabout went up to it, dipped his finger in the blood, and, raising it to his mouth, convinced himself of the reality. When he acquired this certainty, his arms fell, and his head was bowed on his chest, as if he were annihilated.

The spectators raised their eyes to heaven, muttered prayers, and regarded me with a species of terror.

This scene was a triumphant termination to my performance. I therefore retired, leaving the audience under the impression that I had produced. We took leave of Bou-Allen and his son, and set off at a gallop.

The trick I have just described, though so curious, is easily prepared. I will give a description of it while explaining the trouble it took me.

As soon as I was alone in my room I took out of my pistol-case, without which I never travel—a bullet-mould.

I took a card, bent up the four edges, and thus made a sort of trough, in which I placed a piece of wax taken from one of the candles. When it was melted, I mixed it with a little lamp-black I had obtained by putting the blade of a knife over the candle, and then ran this composition into the bullet-mould.

Had I allowed the liquid to get quite cold, the ball would have been full and solid; but in about ten seconds I turned the mould over, and the portions of the wax not yet set ran out, leaving a hollow ball in the mould. This operation is the same as that used in making tapers, the thickness of the outside depending on the time the liquid has been left in the mould.

I wanted a second ball, which I made rather more solid than the other, and this I filled with blood, and covered the orifice with a lump of wax. An Irishman had once taught me the way to draw blood from my thumb, without feeling any pain, and I employed it on this occasion to fill my bullet.

Bullets thus prepared bear an extraordinary resemblance to lead, and are easily mistaken for that metal, when seen at a short distance.

With this explanation the trick will be easily understood. After showing the leaden bullet to the spectators, I changed it for my hollow ball and openly put the latter into the pistol. By pressing the wad tightly down the wax broke into small pieces, and could not touch me at the distance I stood.

At the moment the pistol was fired, I opened my mouth to display the lead bullet, and between my teeth, while the other pistol contained the bullet filled with blood which burst against the wall, and left its imprint, though the wax had blown to atoms.

The Riley Elevated Railway.

As a section of track and platform car of this novel system of elevated railway has been on exhibition in our town for a considerable length of time, and has attracted a great deal of public attention and interest, we consider it appropriate to publish a description of the invention.

The majority of people examining the car and track without a thorough explanation of all their points of advantage over the old system of railway, and a description of the operation of the car, the way the weight is disposed, etc., and the structure, design of locomotive, etc., have a very imperfect comprehension of the system and its real merits. This car and section of track were constructed for exhibition to New York parties, and were placed here to be in a location convenient to the city.

This system of railway is designed for an elevated road entirely, and not for a surface one, as many persons suppose. In the cities it is built of iron, and the country of wood.

The iron structure for city use (very complete and meritorious plans of which can be seen at the Company's office) contains one-third less material per mile of single track than the New York system on the Third Avenue line. The extreme width of truss (Riley plan) is 4 ft. for a car of any desired width. The New York (Riley plan) is 8 ft. over the ties.

Depth (Riley plan) 45 in. New York structure 50 in. Thus it will be seen that the obstruction to light in the streets will be much less where the Riley system is used. The operation of this system of railway is that of a bicycle compared to a carriage. The weight of car and load is supported and carried almost entirely on the two heavy double flanged centre wheels. The four side-bearing smooth-faced wheels are designed to carry but very little weight when the car is balanced and running true. In the case of a loaded car weighing say 8 tons, 3½ tons will be carried by each of the centre wheels, and 500 pounds by each of the side wheels. Of course at times considerable weight will be thrown upon and supported by the side wheels, and they are made strong and heavy to meet that emergency. This arrangement of weight is regulating by the springs, etc., so that bearing wheels will carry the total load should the centre wheel break. These wheels are designed to run on a hard wood strip about 1½ inches thick, spiked to the main beams of the span, and can be easily renewed when badly worn. It is designed to make the face of these wheels 4 in. broad instead of 2½ in. as on cars here, and to have the corners rounded off and the faces turned perfectly smooth, the weight being so light, the friction and wearing on the wood will not be worth considering. This will make these wheels perfectly noiseless in operation. A very great improvement has been made in the mechanical arrangement of the safety wheel over that on the car here. This wheel is not designed to operate at all, except in case of the breakage of some of the other parts of the track.

The centre wheel runs on a special sized T iron rail. On the wooden road it is attached to the structure substantially as shown in the Bloomfield model. On the iron structure its tongue is firmly secured between the two upper chords of the latticed girder, and has a 1 in. thick rubber cushion under either side of it which deadens all noise and gives elasticity to the track.

The brake can be worked either by hand or steam. Cars can be made almost any width or length, but it is designed to run light equipment entirely. The locomotive is of from 6 to 10 tons weight. This system of railway is designed to be built in short sections of from 1 to 25 miles in length.

In a wooded country where lumber is cheap it can be built and operated profitably, where the old system could not be so readily constructed. All grading is

avoided as the posts can vary in length from 5 to 80 feet (more or less) in length to suit the grade. The following claims for this system of elevated railway over the old plan are advanced by its projectors:

1. By avoiding very nearly all oscillation and lateral sway. It is just as impossible for this system of railway to continually oscillate from side to side as it is for a bicycle to do so in rapid operation. Much propelling power is saved, all the racking and unnecessary strain to the structure and equipment avoided. Therefore much lighter cars and engines can be used to accomplish more work and be just as durable, if not more so than those on the old system, where the car is continually pitching and rolling from side to side.

2. By placing, practically, all the weight of the car on two wheels instead of eight, the friction is greatly reduced as well as the expense.

3. The centre of gravity is brought directly on a line with the coupler.

4. The floor of the car being but 4 inches above the centre rail, the car is much nearer the ground (for a given height of structure) than those of the New York roads.

5. The road is practically noiseless in its operation, as is clearly shown by its operation of the iron track.

6. It is almost impossible to derail the cars.

7. All the trucks are rigidly and firmly secured to the car, and are all secured independent of each other, so that if one breaks it does not affect the working of the rest.

8. The weight being all in the centre of the girder or span a single post support (wood or iron) can be used with more security than on a system like the New York roads.

9. The structure and equipment are very durable, from the small amount of unnecessary jar, rack, and strain received.

10. The space occupied in the streets by the road is but half that of the New York system.

The economy and great simplicity of this system of railway cannot but favorably impress any one carefully examining the plans. Quite a number of little improvements have been made on the car trucks, which have been brought about by close study of the full sized car. The patents on this railway are owned by the Riley Railway Construction Company, of which Mr. E. A. Bartholomew is president, and Mr. Edward F. Farrand, secretary and treasurer.

Any person interested in the subject can see full sets of plans of the iron and wooden structures at the office of the company, No. 196 Greenwich Street, New York.

It is the intention of this company to construct a line of railway at Rockaway Beach, L. I., next spring.

The locomotives have two driving wheels located under the boiler, and which operate on the centre rail.

These points appear to us to cover about all the questions which have been asked from time to time, and we have endeavored to explain fully the entire structure.

The Malaria Bogey.

Malaria is as convenient a term now for all sorts of obscure maladies as "the vapors" was a century ago. Let a sick headache worry a heavy eater, and forthwith he has malaria. If a lady has a toothache, she traces it to neuralgia, and thence to malaria. All lazy people have malaria. When a man's hat becomes too small for him, he remembers that he has been drinking old Bourbon to fight off a malarial foe. Some people aver that malaria is the cause of extraordinary appetite; others hold that the distaste for common food, and the beefsteak is a distinctly malarial symptom. If one man shivers of a cold day while sitting still, he takes quinine to cure his malaria, when an overcoat or a walk would warm him. Others who are hot when the sun is out feel that malarial fever has them in its grip. But worst of all are the fearful and wonderful remedies that a hint of malaria immediately brings out. If the malaria sufferer thought he had the affliction, he will be doubly sure of it when his whole digestive apparatus is upset by a course of cures prescribed by his amiable and wise friends.—New York Morning Journal.

"Sun Cholera Medicine."

For more than forty years what is known as "the Sun cholera medicine" has stood the test of experience as the best remedy for looseness of the bowels ever yet devised. As was once vouched by the New York Journal of Commerce, "No one who has this by him and takes it in time will ever have the cholera." Even when no cholera is anticipated it is an excellent thing for the ordinary summer complaints, colds, diarrhoea, dysentery, etc., and we have no hesitation in recommending it. Here it is: Take equal parts of tincture of cayenne, tincture of opium, tincture of rhubarb, essence of peppermint, and spirits of camphor. Mix well. Dose, from five to twenty drops, in a little water or on a little sugar, taken every half hour until relief is obtained. Of course the size of the dose and its frequency must be determined by the age of the person and the character and violence of the attack. Every family would do well to have this preparation on hand, as it is no doubt one of very best remedies for cholera, cholera morbus, and less serious bowel troubles.

JOSH BILLINGS SAYS: "If you want to study physiognomy you should watch the expression on a deaf and dumb man's face when he reaches under the plank walk for a nickel, and gets hold of the business end of a raw bumbebee."

A YOUNG man who went to the late war began his first letter to his sweetheart after this fashion: "My dear Julia—Whenever I am tempted to do wrong, I think of you and I say, 'Get thee behind me, Satan!'"

"Now, then, witness," said the cross-examining counsel sternly, "does the preceding witness enjoy your entire confidence?" "Great Scott, no! Why, that's my wife."

List of Letters

Remaining unclaimed in the Post Office at Bloomfield, N. J., on Wednesday, Sept. 26:

Agnew, Bernard Gaven, Bridget Baer, Louis Higgins, Patrick Bliss, Mrs. Frances Jacques, R. D. Bolt, Mrs. Carrie C. Mernosis, E. J. Botwell, Chas. E. Noon, Bessie Butterworth, Emma Robinson, J. Brennan, Mary Smith, Matilda A. Cardage, John Snyder, Amelia Doremus, C. H. Thompson, A. W.

Any person calling for the above will please ask for "advertisers' letters."

H. DODD, P. M.

"My case is just here," said a citizen to a lawyer. "The plaintiff will swear that I hit him. I will swear that I did not. Now, what can you lawyers make out of that if we go to trial?" "A hundred dollars easy," was the reply.

TIME TABLES.

Carefully corrected up to date.

DEL. LACK & WESTERN RAILROAD.

Barclay and Christopher Street Ferries.

TO NEW YORK.

Leave Montclair—6:30, 7:15, 7:55, 8:40, 9:25, 10:10 a.m. 12:50, 1:40, 2:40, 3:30, 4:10, 5:05, 5:15, 6:40, 11:30, 12:05 p.m.

Leave Bloomfield—6:30, 7:15, 7:55, 8:40, 9:25, 10:10 a.m. 12:50, 1:40, 2:40, 3:30, 4:10, 5:05, 5:15, 6:40, 11:30, 12:05 p.m.

Arrive Newark—6:30, 7:30, 8:10, 9:05, 10:05, 11:15 a.m. 1:25, 1:55, 2:15, 3:15, 4:05, 5:05, 6:05, 7:05, 8:05, 9:05, 10:05, 11:05, 12:05 p.m.

Arrive New York—6:30, 8:00, 8:40, 9:30, 10:40, 11:50 a.m. 1:40, 2:30, 3:30, 4:30, 5:30, 6:30, 7:30, 8:30, 9:30, 10:30, 11:30 p.m.

FROM NEW YORK.

Leave New York—6:30, 7:30, 8:30, 9:40, 10:40 a.m. 12:40, 1:40, 2:40, 3:40, 4:40, 5:40, 6:40, 7:40, 8:40, 9:40, 10:40, 11:40 p.m.

Leave Bloomfield—6:30, 7:30, 8:30, 9:40, 10:40 a.m. 1:40, 2:40, 3:40, 4:40, 5:40, 6:40, 7:40, 8:40, 9:40, 10:40, 11:40 p.m.

Arrive Montclair—6:30, 7:30, 8:30, 9:40, 10:40 a.m. 12:40, 1:40, 2:40, 3:40, 4:40, 5:40, 6:40, 7:40, 8:40, 9:40, 10:40, 11:40 p.m.

Arrive New York—6:30, 8:00, 8:40, 9:30, 10:40, 11:50 a.m. 1:40, 2:30, 3:30, 4:30, 5:30, 6:30, 7:30, 8:30, 9:30, 10:30, 11:30 p.m.

Trains marked \* will run Saturday nights only. Sunday trains from Montclair at 8:04 a.m. and 7:00 p.m.

FROM NEW YORK.

Leave New York—6:30, 8:00, 8:40, 9:30, 10:40, 11:50 a.m. 1:40, 2:30, 3:30, 4:30, 5:30, 6:30, 7:30, 8:30, 9:30, 10:30, 11:30 p.m.